



Leon County

Board of County Commissioners

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NEWS RELEASE

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Leon County is Awarded with Heart Ready Community Distinction Two Years in a Row

For the past two years Leon County has been recognized by the American Heart Association as being a Heart Ready Community for the placement of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in public locations, along with public CPR and AED training.

The American Heart Association estimates that each day, more than 95 percent of Americans who suffer cardiac arrest die before reaching the hospital. The American Heart Association has recognized Leon County as a leader in its efforts to save lives from sudden cardiac arrest through its public safety education programs along with its progressive county-wide Automated External Defibrillator (AED) program.

Over the last year Leon County Emergency Medical Services (LCEMS) have improved their resuscitation rate from 21.21 to 22.75 percent. These resuscitation rates are well above the national resuscitation rate of 5 to 7 percent. In an effort to dynamically expand AED coverage throughout the county LCEMS have added 116 AED's to the Leon County Sheriff's Office fleet.

Two new factors contributing to the LCEMS successful resuscitation rate is improved airway training for Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and Paramedics and the addition of new bone drills in the ambulances to use on patients that are not able to have intravenous lines administered.

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